

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9921

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6494

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP, AF

SUBJ: BIO ON DR. MOHAMMAD HASSAN SHARQ

1. FOLLOWING FOR DEPARTMENT'S USE IN PREPARING BIOGRAPHIC SHEETS FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN IS BIO ON DR. MOHAMMAD HASSAN SHARQ.

2. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MOHAMMAD HASSAN SHARQ IS A NON-PRACTICING MEDICAL DOCTOR IN HIS LATE FIFTIES, WHOSE PUBLIC CAREER HAS BEEN AS A SATELLITE OF PRESIDENT DAOUD. HE WAS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO DAOUD THROUGHOUT HIS TENURE AS PRIME MINISTER AND RETIRED WITH HIM IN 1963 TO CONTINUE TO SERVE HIM AS INFORMANT AND CONTACT MAN. SHARQ, A SELF-PROCLAIMED "SOCIALIST". IS REPORTED TO BE DAOUD'S PRINCIPAL CONTACT WITH THE PARCHAMISTS (WHO ARE REGARDED AS GENERALLY "LEFTIST". SOME EQUATE PARCHAMISTS WITH PRO-SOVIETS). WIDELY REGARDED AS RUTHLESS, FEARED AS A POTENTIAL HATCHET MAN, SUSPECTED BY SOME AS A FORMER BRIBE TAKER, SHARQ ALSO HAS A QUICK MIND, HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR, AND CAN BE GENIAL AND PLEASANT. HE USES AN INTERPRETER IN CONVERSTATIONS WITH AMERICANS.

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